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(h) whether the hon. Minister will consider the desirability of completely closing areas for the tapping of toddy if within a radius of twenty miles sweet juice is permitted; and

(i) the number of trees tapped for during the last five years in Cuddapah district and the amount of rentals collected during that period?

**A.—(a) & (d)** Yes.

(b) & (c) The drawing of sweet toddy was not prohibited at any time in the Cuddapah district.

(e) & (f) The Government are not aware that the facts are as suggested. Enquiries will be made if specific instances are brought to the notice of the Government.

(g) The Preventive staff of the Madras Excise Department.

(h) The Government know of no reason why such drastic action should be taken.

(i)—

1922-23	...	...	...	...	31,752 trees.
1923-24	...	...	...	...	35,261 "
1924-25	...	...	...	...	35,503 "
1925-26	...	...	...	...	35,156 "
1926-27	...	...	...	...	36,489 "

Particulars of the revenue under toddy in each district are contained in the Annual Excise Administration reports which are available to the public.

### Fisheries

*Issue of salt for fish-curing purposes in fish-curing yards.*

**1447 Q.**—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: With reference to the answer to my question No. 875 answered on 22nd October 1927, will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state whether the Government have come to any decision regarding the proposal to reduce the rate at which salt is issued for fish-curing purposes in fish-curing yards and, if so, what it is?

**A.—**The question is still under consideration.

### STARRED QUESTIONS

#### Civil Justice

*Appointment of Oriyas in the Civil Courts of Ganjam district.*

**\* 1448 Q.**—Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the total strength of (1) the regular establishment, including copyists and (2) the number of amins separately, in each of the Civil Courts of Ganjam district;

(b) the number of Oriyas in each of the two sections separately in each Court;

(c) the number of clerks who can read and write Oriya documents;

(d) the number of Oriya clerks who are in the superior subordinate service, i.e., from Rs. 60 and Rs. 80 upwards respectively;

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(e) the number of posts both temporary and permanent that fell vacant in each of the two sections separately in the years 1925, 1926 and 1927;

(f) the number of persons promoted to each of the two sections in the arrangements made in the above three years;

(g) the number of Oriyas promoted in the two sections in the above three years;

(h) the number of Oriyas who applied for appointments and the number of Oriyas appointed in the two sections in the above three years; and

(i) the steps taken to carry out the instructions of the High Court contained in R.O.C. No. 3252, dated 25th November 1920?

**A.**—The Government have no information but have called for it.

**SYED IBRAHIM SAHIB** Bahadur:—“When they receive the information, will they be pleased to place it on the table of the House?”

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—“Yes”

### Irrigation

#### *Investigation of the Tungabhadra scheme.*

\* 1449 Q.—**Mr. A. PARASURAMA RAO**: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether any and what action was taken in the matter of the investigation of the Tungabhadra irrigation scheme;

(b) whether any officer was deputed to investigate, if so, who is the officer so deputed;

(c) whether he has made any and what progress in his work and how much amount has been spent till now on the investigation;

(d) whether the officer has been submitting any reports regarding the investigation, if so, whether such reports will be placed on the table of the House;

(e) if nothing has been done, who is responsible for not doing so; and

(f) when it can be expected that the work of investigation will be commenced or whether any investigation will be undertaken at all?

**A.**—(a) A copy <sup>a</sup> of Official Memorandum No. 16082-D/26-13, dated 6th January 1928, which explains the present position is placed on the table.

(b) So far the special staff appointed consists only of supervisors and subordinates—the proposal now, as explained in the Official Memorandum, is to put an Executive Engineer on special duty with a suitable staff.

(c) No particular progress has yet been reported.

(d) No.

(e) It was reported in November that the staff already sanctioned had done little because of plague.

(f) Further orders will be issued on receipt of the reply from the Chief Engineer to the Official Memorandum.

<sup>a</sup> Printed as Appendix XI on pages 351-355 infra.